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The President's Daily Brief

November 27, 1974

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Exempt from general
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
exemption category 5B(1)(2)(3)
declassified only on approval of
the Director of Central Intelligence

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

November 27, 1974

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USSR-CHINA

The Soviet government has formally rejected Peking's offer to conclude a nonaggression treaty tied to a withdrawal of Soviet forces from areas near the border. In a brusque message to Peking made public yesterday, Moscow dismissed the Chinese offer of November 6 and asserted that Peking shows no "real interest" in an understanding with the USSR.

In his speech in Mongolia yesterday, Brezhnev reiterated Moscow's long-standing position that demands for Soviet troop withdrawals from "disputed areas" along the border prior to any agreement are "absolutely unacceptable." The Soviets intended by their response and by Brezhnev's remarks to regain the propaganda initiative from Peking. They hope they have made clear that the Chinese proposal does not constitute a serious effort to move negotiations ahead.

The bluntness of the Soviet response suggests Moscow has decided that no new initiatives on the border question can be expected from Peking at this time.

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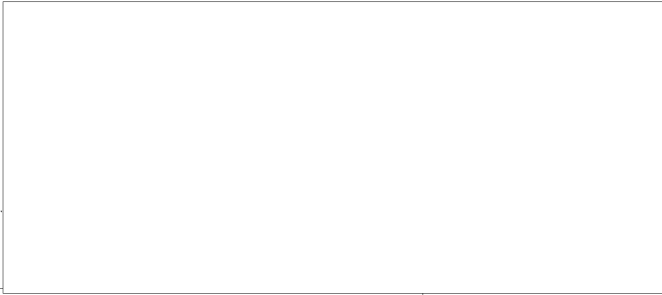
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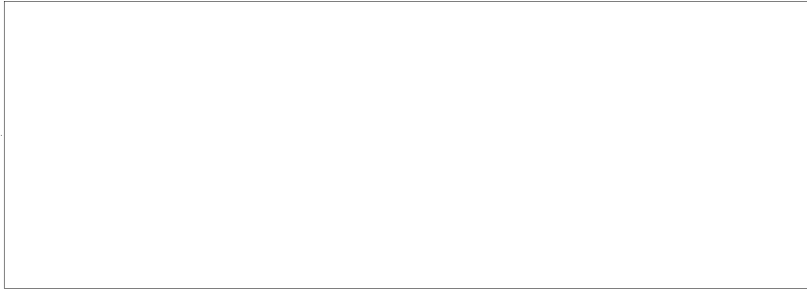
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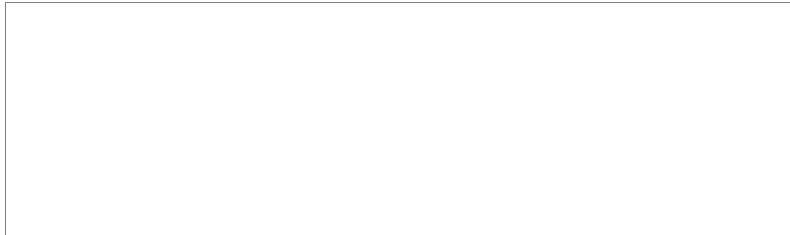
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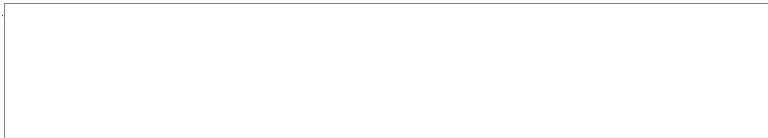
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NOTES

[redacted] may have begun demobilizing some of the reservists they called up earlier this month. This would reflect a belief that Syria will renew the UN mandate, which expires on Saturday.

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Cambodia: Whatever the outcome of the UN vote on Cambodia, a significant governmental shake-up will take place in Phnom Penh. Should the vote favor the Lon Nol government, Prime Minister Long Boret plans to purge and reorganize his cabinet. In the event of a loss at the UN, Long Boret has already said that he will resign, and there are numerous reports indicating that the military would push for greater participation in a new government. Finding a new prime minister as capable as Long Boret would be a major challenge for President Lon Nol.

South Vietnam: President Thieu has picked men to replace the four cabinet ministers who resigned late last month, but is not yet ready to announce their names. There have been rumors that other ministers plan to resign, and Thieu may want to make further changes before publicly designating the new cabinet members. Three of the new ministers come from government ranks and the fourth is a prominent bank official. The appointments Thieu has in mind so far will bring more economic and management expertise into the cabinet. The changes will do little, however, to appease those opponents of Thieu who have been calling for major changes in government policy.

(continued)

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Mexico: The Mexican [redacted]

[redacted] government in-
tends to join OPEC. [redacted] Mexico
is likely to wait for its oil exports to grow be-
fore joining. By the end of next year, exports
could be as high as 300,000 barrels per day. Pres-
ident Echeverria's economic advisers strongly advo-
cate membership in OPEC.

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